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**ISSUE I**

# *N***NSPAA'S** *Voice*

**The newsletter of the National  
Sponsored Programs Administrators  
Alliance of HBCUs, Inc.**



**[www.nspaa.com](http://www.nspaa.com)**

# NSPAA's *Voice*

*The newsletter of the National  
Sponsored Programs Administrators  
Alliance of Historically Black  
Colleges and Universities, Inc.*

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Baton Rouge, LA 70874



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Session I





*Save The Date*

**30TH ANNUAL NSPAA  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP**

*“30 Years of Technical Assistance in Research Administration:  
Legacy of Excellence, Vision for the Future”*

**JUNE 2-5, 2026**

**NEW ORLEANS, LA**

[www.nspaa.com](http://www.nspaa.com)



**NEW ORLEANS**



# **30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL T/A WORKSHOP**

**HOST HOTEL**

**CAESARS NEW ORLEANS**

A deposit equal to one night's stay is required to hold reservations. Should a guest cancel a reservation, the deposit will be refunded if notice is received at least three (3) working days prior to arrival and a cancellation number is obtained.

NSPAA's room block will open soon.



**[www.nspaa.com](http://www.nspaa.com)**





NSPAA's President

Theodore Callier

Dear Colleagues:

I am deeply honored to serve as the new President of NSPAA, a community that continues to represent the heart of research administration across our institutions. As we embark on this year together, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your trust and support.

Our profession plays a vital role in advancing research, innovation, and discovery. We promote integrity, ensure compliance, and advance collaboration — ensuring that research not only happens but thrives. As President, I am committed to championing NSPAA's values and serving with purpose and inclusivity.

In today's rapidly evolving and often complex research landscape, our work is more critical than ever. Therefore, our focus will this year center on three key pillars: **empowerment**, **advocacy**, and **outreach**.

- **Empowerment:** We will pursue additional professional development, mentorship, and leadership opportunities to equip and advance our members with resources to grow and lead.
- **Advocacy:** We will amplify our collective voice to ensure that the critical work of research administration is recognized and supported at all levels.
- **Outreach:** We will strengthen connections across NSPAA institutions, regions, and communities —fostering collaboration, sharing best practices, and welcoming new voices into our field.

I invite you to engage, share, and help shape the future of our organization, by joining a committee, attending the annual conference, participating in webinars, and contributing in a number of other ways. Whether you are new to the profession or a seasoned expert, your contributions and engagement not only enrich our community, but also strengthen NSPAA and research as a whole.

Thank you for your dedication and for being part of this incredible community. I look forward to serving and working alongside you in the year ahead.

Warmest Regards,

Theodore Callier  
President

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We promote integrity,  
ensure compliance, and  
advance collaboration -  
ensuring that research not  
only happens but thrives.

Theodore Callier

# HISTORY *Of* NSPAA



NSPAA was established in December 1993 with the mission to aid Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the efficiency and effectiveness of sponsored program administration. The organization provides technical assistance workshops, conferences, training, and service activities, which have formed a collaborative sponsored research community of HBCUs that address and share particular needs facing HBCUs. The main goal of NSPAA is to gain visibility and broaden its membership base within the HBCU sponsored research community. NSPAA of HBCUs, Inc. was co-founded by Mr. Marvin H. Watkins, formerly of North Carolina A&T State University and Dr. Franklin D. Hamilton, formerly of Florida A&M University.

NSPAA is an enthusiastic organization, which recognizes the vital role that research administrators play in helping their institutions to secure external funding. The network of HBCUs administrators developed by NSPAA has gone a long way toward promoting the specialized interests of HBCUs and furthering communication among these institutions. As the NSPAA organization grows, so does its association with federal offices and private non-governmental entities. This interaction has proved to be essential in empowering HBCUs to remain competitive in the research arena and to stay abreast of current developments in sponsored research.

NSPAA provides assistance and services to the membership funding agencies and others by way of its Annual Technical Assistance Workshops, which include Advance Workshop Series and Technical Help Seminars, Networking Opportunities and Publications. The Alliance frequently collaborates on opportunities available to HBCUs and other Minority Serving Institutions, The Department of Defense, the Department of Energy and the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and organizations such as MAXIMUS and Tougaloo College Research & Development Foundation often support training seminars, which help members earn professional certification as Certified Research Administrators through the Research Administrator Certification Council.



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**It is important for HBCUs to emphasize their research and sponsored programs capabilities...**

**Marvin H. Watkins, Founder**



# TYPES *Of* MEMBERSHIPS

Members have the option of joining under an individual, Institutional, or Associate membership.

## Individual

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A person employed at an HBCU in the area of sponsored programs administration at the time of admission to membership.

## Institutional

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A group of individuals employed at an HBCU who are actively engaged in or seek to become involved in research and sponsored projects.

## Associate

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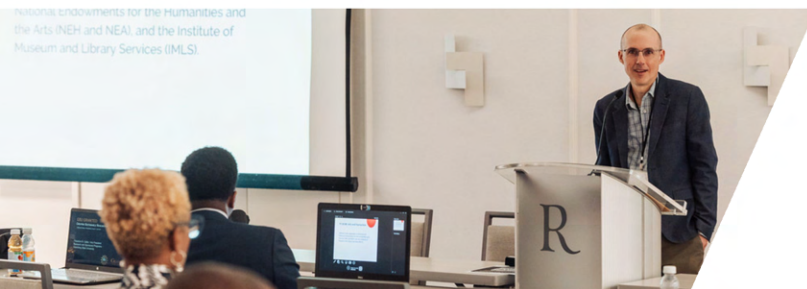
A non-voting affiliate that is an individual not directly employed at an HBCU but has an interest in sponsored programs administration.



*Dues are for a twelve-month period. NSPAA operates on a fixed membership year, which is effective **July 1<sup>st</sup>** and expires **June 30<sup>th</sup>**. Credit card (processing fee included) and check payments accepted.*



# BENEFITS *Of* NSPAA MEMBERSHIP



## **Opportunities to Serve & Lead**

Discover meaningful opportunities to serve and lead within our organization. Use your talents to make a difference, inspire others, and help shape the future of our community.



## **Training**

Learn about available funding, get ideas for program development, and enhance your knowledge of pre-award and post-award functions and compliance. Post-award management for colleagues specializing in finance is also included.



## **Networking**

Interact with federal agencies and private/non- governmental entities to promote your program initiatives, and share lessons learned with faculty and staff of other institutions.



# INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Central State University



**CENTRAL**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## **"American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) HBCU Faculty Grant"**

**PI:** Dr. Patrick D. Anderson, Associate Professor of Philosophy  
[panderson@centralstate.edu](mailto:panderson@centralstate.edu) (email)

**Agency:** American Council of Learned Societies

**Award Amount:** \$10,000

**Period of Performance:** June 2025 - August 2026

**Project Description:** Dr. Anderson received a *2025 HBCU Faculty Grant* to support his research on a two-volume edited collection of Eldridge Cleaver's unpublished and uncollected works. As the author of *Soul on Ice* and *Minister of Information* for the Black Panther Party, Cleaver's political and philosophical views heavily influenced political movements in the 1960s and 70s. But because most of his either remained unpublished or remained scattered throughout various periodicals, scholars and students still struggle to understand the intellectual legacy Cleaver left behind. In the first volume of this series, *White Woman/Black Man: The Prison Writings of Eldridge Cleaver*, Dr. Anderson curates a variety of Cleaver's autobiographical, theoretical, and sociological writings, demonstrating Cleaver's position as a forerunner to the emerging field of Black Male Studies.

In the second volume, *Ideological Writings, Vol. 1: The Political Writings of Eldridge Cleaver*, Dr. Anderson compiles a variety of Cleaver's writings on political theory that show the evolution of his thought from his time in prison to the end of period of exile. During the summer of 2025, the grant supported Dr. Anderson's archival research in the Cleaver special collections at University of California Berkeley, Stanford University, Texas A&M University, and Emory University. Dr. Anderson has transcribed approximately 250,000 words from manuscripts and other materials, and he is currently completing proposals for submission to Temple University Press.

# INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Central State University



CENTRAL  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## "American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship"

**PI:** Dr. Patrick D. Anderson, Associate Professor of Philosophy,  
[panderson@centralstate.edu](mailto:panderson@centralstate.edu) (email)

**Project Description:** The CSU Philosophy & Religion program has redesigned its curriculum and innovated the way the history of philosophy can be taught. Most philosophy programs in North America include a sequence of courses the history of philosophy, with courses in Ancient Philosophy, Medieval Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, 19th Century Philosophy, and 20th Century Philosophy. Of course, such curricula consist mostly of—if not completely—of philosophers and texts from the western philosophical tradition. Because it is housed in an HBCU, however, CSU's Philosophy & Religion program has rejected the Eurocentric structure so common in philosophy programs, deciding instead to center Africana intellectual traditions in its history of philosophy sequence.

The new curriculum begins with a general education course "Introduction to Hip Hop Philosophy," which introduces students to Africana philosophy through the lens of hip hop. Students explore questions about human nature, knowledge, and ethical and aesthetic values as they read widely from African, Afro-Caribbean, and African American philosophers. Upper division courses now offer students the chance to study the history of African philosophy from the ancient Egyptians to contemporary academic philosophy. Courses in "African Philosophy" and "Afro-Caribbean Philosophy" provide in-depth historical surveys that cover Egyptian philosophy, slave narratives, the Ethiopian Enlightenment, the Haitian revolution, African meta-philosophy, philosophical anthropology, anticolonialism, existentialism, and ethnopoiesis. Similarly, "African American Philosophy I" covers 19th-century African American thought, and "African American Philosophy II" covers 20th-century African American thought. Together these courses trace the evolution of African American philosophy from the early 19th century pamphleteers through Black nationalism and abolitionism to the American Negro Academy, and then on through Pan-Africanism, pragmatism, idealism, and Black Power movements. The final course in the sequence, "Contemporary Africana Philosophy," offers students an overview of Black professional philosophy from the 1970s to today, including developments in pragmatism, critical theory, critical race theory, liberalism, anticolonialism, existentialism, and more.



# INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Central State University



**CENTRAL**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

### **"Targeted Infusion Project: Fusing Social Science and Forensics to Enhance Preparedness for Modern Criminal Justice Careers"**

**PI:** Genevieve Ritchie-Ewing, Associate Professor  
[gritchie-ewing@centralstate.edu](mailto:gritchie-ewing@centralstate.edu) (email)

**Agency:** NSF HBCU-Undergraduate Program, Targeted Infusion Project

**Award Amount:** \$399,854

**Period of Performance:** September 15, 2023 - August 31, 2026

**Project Description:** With NSF funding, the university launched a distinctive minor in Forensic Studies that combines training in cultural diversity and understanding with the STEM fields of forensics, particularly social science forensics. We also created three new courses for inclusion in the minor that are offered in very few, if any, HBCUs at the undergraduate level - Forensic Anthropology, Forensic Psychology, and Forensic Social Work - and redesigned three forensic chemistry courses. In addition, we outfitted a Forensic Studies Laboratory with bone models, crime scene materials, and evidence processing equipment for use in the new and existing forensic courses. Since minorities are underrepresented in forensic fields, this project leverages student interest to increase workforce diversity through evidence-based, innovative techniques including training in inquiry-based scientific methods. More than twenty students enrolled in the minor in its first year and enrollment continues to grow in its second year. Students also have had the chance to interact with forensic professionals and visit forensic labs at institutions such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office, and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The forensic program is growing in other ways as well since we are on the verge of introducing a B.S. in Social Sciences with a forensic track and are considering adding forensic courses in accounting and tech-augmented crime scene processing. This project has enhanced Central State University's profile through media coverage and generated significant attention from current and incoming students with the goal of boosting enrollment and retention.

## Johnson C. Smith University



Johnson C. Smith University

### **"Harmony Across the Carolinas: An Exploration of Music's Role in Culture, Education, and Technology"**

**PI:** Dr. Tomisha Brock, Director of Bands/Assistant Professor of Music  
[tbrock@jcsu.edu](mailto:tbrock@jcsu.edu) (email)

**Agency:** National Endowment for the Humanities

**Award Amount:** \$200,000

**Period of Performance:** September 1, 2025 - August 30, 2027

**Project Description:** A two-year project investigating the role of music in shaping cultural identities, fostering educational innovation, and advancing technological integration within North Carolina. The project aims to engage diverse audiences across the state through a series of thought-provoking events, including panel discussions, workshops, lectures, and performances. The project will bring together scholars, musicians, educators, technology experts, and community members to explore how music is a powerful medium for cultural expression and social transformation.

# INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Johnson C. Smith University



Johnson C. Smith University

### **“The DataSmiths Initiative: Transforming STEM Education with Data-Centric Approaches”**

**PI:** Dr. Sabina Otienoburu, Associate Professor of Bioinformatics  
[sotienoburu@jcsu.edu](mailto:sotienoburu@jcsu.edu) (email)

**Agency:** National Science Foundation

**Award Amount:** \$399,930

**Period of Performance:** August 15, 2025 - July 31, 2028

**Project Description:** The goal of this project is to prepare and encourage underrepresented students to pursue an advanced degree and to equip them to be more competitive in the marketplace, by immersion in data-intense topics especially through hands-on activities, real world examples and undergraduate research. The DataSmiths Initiative includes career and applied research seminars series, summer boot camps in data science and bioinformatics methods, a peer mentoring program with graduate students from collaborating institutions and summer research experience in collaboration with top tier research institutions in data intense projects.

## Elizabeth City State University



### **“Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)”**

**PI:** Dr. Kuldeep Rawat, Thorpe Endowed Professor & Dean, School of Science, Aviation, Health, and Technology  
[ksrawat@ecsu.edu](mailto:ksrawat@ecsu.edu) (email)

**Agency:** North Carolina Department of Transportation / University Transportation Center of Excellence - Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) / North Carolina A&T

**Award Amount:** \$260,000

**Period of Performance:** August 1, 2025 - July 31, 2027

**Project Description:** The University Transportation Center of Excellence in Advanced Air Mobility and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UTCoe-AAM & UAS), in partnership with North Carolina A&T State University (NCAT), North Carolina State University (NCSU), and Elizabeth City State University (ECSU), is driving efforts to integrate AAM and UAS technologies into North Carolina's transportation systems. Aligned with the NCDOT's strategic plan and the U.S. Government's aeronautics transportation priorities, this initiative focuses on Safety, Environmental Stewardship, Economic Competitiveness, Innovation, National Security, Workforce Development, and Equitable Access.



# INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Southern University and A&M College



## U.S. Patent No. 12,368,007, titled "Nanotube Film Enhanced 3D Photoanode for Dye-Sensitive Photovoltaic Cell"

**PI:** Dr. Fareed Dawan, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering  
fareed.dawan@sus.edu (email)

**Agency:** United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

**Period of Performance:** Issued July 22, 2025 - Valid for 20 years

**Project Description:** Southern University and A&M College proudly celebrates a major milestone in research innovation with the issuance of U.S. Patent No. 12,368,007, titled "Nanotube Film Enhanced 3D Photoanode for Dye-Sensitive Photovoltaic Cell." This patent, awarded to Dr. Fareed Dawan, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, represents a pioneering advancement in solar nanotechnology and energy conversion.

The patented architecture introduces a three-dimensional nanotube film design that significantly enhances light absorption and charge transport efficiency in dye-sensitized photovoltaic systems. This breakthrough has the potential to increase solar energy output while reducing lateral footprint and material costs, opening pathways for commercialization in advanced photovoltaics, aerospace, and defense applications.

The achievement underscores Southern University's growing role as a leader in advanced materials and energy research. It reflects the institution's commitment to fostering faculty innovation, translating cutting-edge science into intellectual property, and expanding opportunities for technology transfer. This patent not only strengthens the University's research portfolio but also contributes to its mission of developing solutions to meet global energy challenges.

Dr. Dawan's work exemplifies how faculty ingenuity and institutional support can transform novel concepts into protected technologies with broad societal impact. This recognition affirms Southern University's continued dedication to excellence in research, discovery, and innovation.



NSPAA of HBCUs, Inc.

# MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Michelle Rogers, MBA, Director of Sponsored Programs and Title III, recently completed an additional certification in Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Grants: 2 CFR 200 (Subparts A-D) through Management Concepts. This achievement strengthens Morris Brown College's capacity to effectively manage federal awards, ensure compliance with grant regulations, and support the College's continued success in securing and stewarding external funding.

**Congratulations on your fantastic achievement from all of us at NSPAA!**























# 2025-2026 POWER HOUR SESSION I

**The One Big Beautiful Bill:  
Higher Education Impacts  
on Research and Institutional  
Risk Sharing**



October 22, 2025

Session II - January 2026  
11:00 CT



**Speaker**

**Shawna Watley**  
Senior Policy Advisor



**Speaker**

**Jemiah Williams**  
Public Affairs Advisor

**Holland & Knight, LLP**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV  
17

## **National Council of University Research Administrators Research Security and Export Controls**

November 17-18, 2025 - New Orleans, LA

This 2-day workshop will devote one full day each to the topics of research security and export controls. Each day will include a mixture of existing federal guidance, exercises, and examples that show participants how each topic applies to the academic environment. [www.ncura.edu](http://www.ncura.edu)

NOV  
19

## **National Council of University Research Administrators Level I: Fundamentals of Sponsored Programs Administration Level II: Sponsored Projects Administration - Critical Issues in Research Administration Financial Research Administration**

November 19-21, 2025 - New Orleans, LA

This workshop is being offered both in-person and as a virtual workshop. Some details, such as the daily schedule, will differ depending on whether you attend in-person or virtually. Please review the information for your specific offering. [www.ncura.edu](http://www.ncura.edu)

MAR  
19

## **National Council of University Research Administrators Financial Research Administration**

March 19-20, 2026 - San Juan, Puerto Rico

Registration for the FRA Conference will open in November 2025

NCURA members enjoy a discounted registration fee, and the conference is open to all members of the research administration community. [www.ncura.edu](http://www.ncura.edu)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR  
22

## National Council of University Research Administrators Pre-Award Research Administration

March 22-23, 2026 - San Juan, Puerto Rico  
Registration for the PRA Conference will open in November 2025  
NCURA members enjoy a discounted registration fee, and the  
conference is open to all members of the research administration  
community. [www.ncura.edu](http://www.ncura.edu)

APR  
27

## Society of Research Administrators International Global Research Management Summit

April 27-29, 2026, Dubai  
SRAI's Global Research Management Summit is a premier gathering  
of research administrators, managers, and thought leaders. Connect  
with a global community committed to advancing the future of  
research management. Reserve your place today and elevate your  
career and institution. Together, we'll create a lasting impact.

JUN  
2

## NSPAA of HBCUs, Inc. 30<sup>th</sup> Annual NSPAA Technical Assistance Workshop

June 2-5, 2026, New Orleans, LA  
*"30 Years of Technical Assistance in Research Administration:  
Legacy of Excellence, Vision for the Future"* [www.nspaa.com](http://www.nspaa.com)

AUG  
1

## National Council of University Research Administrators Annual Meeting of the Membership

August 1-4, 2026, New York City, NY  
This in-depth, targeted training and professional development  
includes offerings for those new to the profession to our most senior  
level members. [www.ncura.edu](http://www.ncura.edu)





REMEMBERING OUR FOUNDER

*Marvin H. Watkins*  
1933 - 2025





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